(a) whether she has asked State Governments to take all possible steps at their end to halt the slump in incoming tourist traffic for the last few months and has urged them to cut tax for attracting foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the main suggestions pointed out to the States including increasing of floor area ratio for hotels;

(c) the reaction of State Governments thereto;

(d) to what extent State Governments have agreed; and

(e) whether Government is confident of States attracting more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The development and promotion of tourism, including rationalization of luxury tax, passenger and road tax, are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism had written to the State Governments on 9th January, 2009 to give due consideration on these issues and also on seamless travel, safety and security of tourists and increasing Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of hotels, in order to provide relief to tourism sector in the face of global financial crisis that is affecting the tourism sector adversely.

The Ministry of Tourism has announced various promotional schemes like Visit India Year 2009, liberalization of Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) scheme for overseas marketing, introduction of MDA scheme for the promotion of domestic tourism and Meetings Incentives Conferences Exhibitions (MICE) tourism and allowing External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) for the construction of hotels and increase of Floor Area Ratio from 150 to 225 in most of the parts of National Capital Territory of Delhi, so as to increase the tourist inflow in the country.

Corporate scams

*31. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CORPORATE AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Satyam Computers scam is just the tip of the iceberg and that many business houses in India, banks, auditors and Government agencies collude with vested interests to dress up balance sheets to mislead investors; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The case of Satyam Computer Services Limited (the "Company") is an isolated case of its kind and cannot be generalized. This Ministry has ordered investigation into the affairs of the Company under Sec. 235 of the Companies Act, 1956, to be carried out by officers drawn from the Serious Fraud Investigation Office. Such investigation has been ordered with a view to uncover the nature and scope of fraud/ non-compliance or violation of the law by the Company, its directors and officers and to enable appropriate action against the persons involved.

CAT-III trained pilots with private airlines

*32. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: